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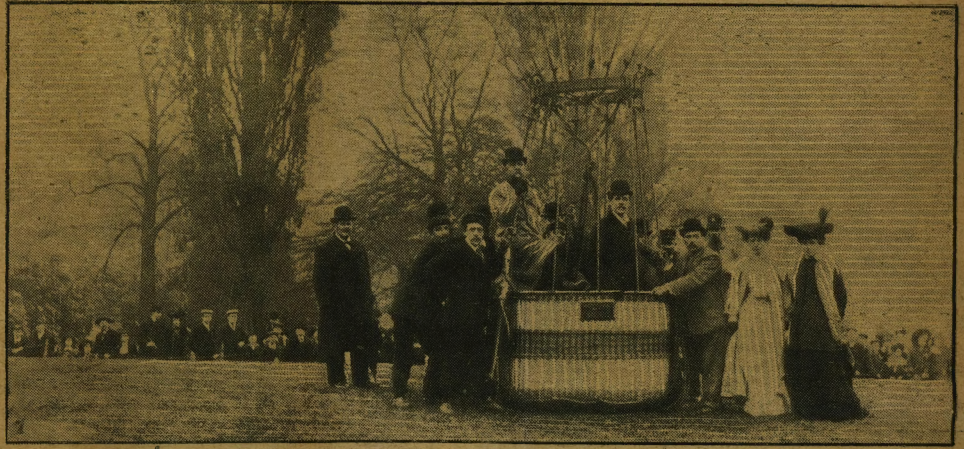
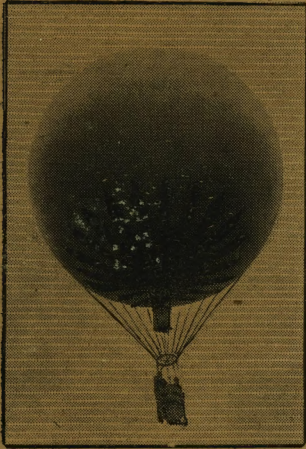
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MONDAY, MAY 9, 1904.

One Halfpenny.

AERO CLUB'S ASCENT AT CRYSTAL PALACE ON SATURDAY.



On Saturday the first ascents of the Aero Club were made at the Crystal Palace. Two balloons went up. In one balloon, which descended at Dungeness, were Captain A. K. Huntingdon and Mr. Pollock. In the second, the "Graphic" balloon, which descended at Appledore, in Kent, were Mr. C. Matherson, Mr. R. K. Micklethwaite, and Mr. Percival Spencer. The photographs show Captain Huntingdon and Mr. Pollock about to start, and in full flight.—(Photographs by Russell.)

SATURDAY'S DEMONSTRATION IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE AGAINST THE LICENSING BILL.

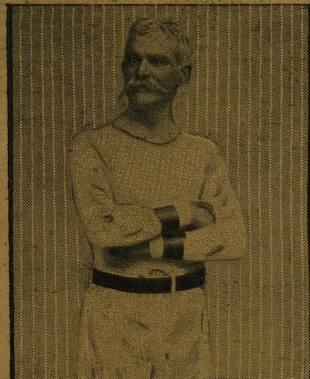


There was a demonstration on Saturday afternoon in Trafalgar-square to protest against the Licensing Bill. A resolution condemning the Bill was carried unanimously.—(Photograph by Campbell-Crey.)



REV. SYLVESTER HORNE,
one of the speakers at the meeting.

STARTS TO-DAY.



Mr. Peter Adair starts to-day to walk from Land's End to John o' Groat's. Although he is sixty-one years old, he hopes to beat Dr. Deighton's time by forty-eight hours. — (Photograph by Parisian School of Photography.)

FINISH OF THE JUBILEE HANDICAP AT KEMPTON ON SATURDAY.



In spite of the absence of the King, there was a good gathering at Kempton Park on Saturday. The Jubilee Stakes were won by Mr. A. P. Cunliffe's Ypsilanti by three-quarters of a length. Corsior was second, and General Cronje third. At first the race seemed to be safe for Mr. L. Neumann's L'Aiglon, the favourite, but he had scarcely rounded the bend into the straight when Ypsilanti drew up and won decisively.

STILL LANDING.

Ring Round Port Arthur
Now Complete.

JAPS SWARM EVERYWHERE

Russians Keenly Alive to Their
Great Danger.

Within the brief space of seven days, since the memorable battle of the Yalu, disaster upon disaster has befallen the Russian forces, and to-day the Japanese are in possession of Russia's stronghold, Feng-wang-cheng, on the road to Liao-yang. Port Arthur is perfectly isolated; and the entrance to the harbour is completely sealed.

General Kuropatkin's forces are also in imminent peril of attack, both from Ying-kow Harbour, which will threaten Newchwang, and from General Kuroki's victorious army, which is pressing forward from Feng-wang-cheng to Liao-yang.

THIRD ATTEMPT SUCCESSFUL.

Such a record is one of which any nation might justly be proud, and it has been accomplished by such perfect co-operation on the part of the Japanese land and naval forces as to excite the admiration of the civilised world.

The day after General Kuroki's success on the Yalu, Admiral Togo made his third attempt to seal Port Arthur.

The Russians said that the attempt had failed. What the Admiral himself says in his official report, issued by the Japanese Legation in London, is this:—

"The entrance is considered effectively blocked, at least for cruisers and battleships."

Success, therefore, and not failure, was the result of the bold attack of May 2.
If the commander of the little expedition of destroyers and steamers had not failed to receive a message from Admiral Togo, the attack would not have been made. After he had started, a strong wind got up, and an order was sent to stop the expedition.

This order came too late. Already the eight doomed steamers were making for the harbour at full speed, regardless of the fact that the enemy's searchlights were playing all about them, that a hot fire was directed against them from the forts, and that their course was sown with mines which might destroy them at any moment.

SMASHED THE HARBOUR BOOM.

Only five of them reached the harbour mouth. One dashed against the boom which protected the narrow passage, broke it, steamed inside, blew it self up, and sank. Another followed. The remaining three sank just at the entrance.

Of those who managed the eight vessels which thus courted destruction, half were picked up by the Japanese destroyers. The rest went cheerfully to their deaths, feeling with the Latin poet that to die for one's country is far braver than a sweet and fitting end.

According to a Reuter message from Tokio, the Japanese casualties were seven men killed, twenty wounded, and eighty-eight men, including fourteen officers, missing.

LANDING IN SWARMS.

From Shan-hai-kwan it is reported, says Reuter, that 10,000 Japanese have landed in Kinchau Bay, to the west of the Liao-tong peninsula, and it is believed that two other divisions are about to land near Newchwang, with the object of subsequently effecting a junction with the army from the Yalu.

In this connection, it is important to note, that telegrams from Antung assert, says Reuter, that in addition to the landings on the Liao-tong peninsula, Japanese troops also landed at Takushan, on the Manchurian coast.

Pulantian, a point on the railway due west of Pitsewo, is the headquarters of the Japanese, who (says Reuter) have destroyed the railway and telegraphs, thus cutting off communication with Port Arthur.

APPEAL FOR HEROISM.

How the Russian garrison regards the investment of the port may be gathered from a speech, which General Stossel delivered to them on Friday, when he announced the Japanese landing.

"Now our work is beginning," he said. "Naturally the enemy will besiege this fortress," and he called upon them (says Reuter) to "defend it until the arrival of the troops which are coming to relieve us."

"No matter what happens," he added, "you must not lose your heads, but remember that everything is possible in war, and that we shall be able, with the help of God, to cope with the arduous task imposed upon us."

In order to complete the picture of Port Arthur, ringed round by a hostile sea, it is only necessary to record that a Japanese squadron is continually in sight off the port.

ROMOURED JAPANESE REVERSE.

Last evening a message was received in Paris from St. Petersburg stating it was rumoured there that the Japanese had been defeated near Port Arthur.

OCCUPATION CONFIRMED.

A Russian newspaper states, says Reuter, that the first Japanese Army occupied Feng-wang-cheng on the 6th inst, the place having been evacuated on the 3rd.

It is reported that General Sassulitch has been recalled by the Tsar.

Sir Frederick Treves, who is on a visit to Japan, will be received by the Emperor to-day.

Admiral Alexeief, it is stated, has been recalled at the instance of General Kuropatkin and Admiral Sikorski, and will be replaced by the Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaievitch.

RUSSIANS DRIVEN OUT.

Japanese Occupy Feng-wang-cheng After a Skirmish.

CAVALRY IN ACTION.

General Kuroki has not been long in following up his success on the Yalu. Already he is in possession of Feng-wang-cheng, the only stronghold which the Russians have between the Yalu and Liao-yang.

In an official report from the General, issued from the Japanese Legation in London yesterday, he says:—

"Our cavalry, after dispersing the enemy, our infantry detachment occupied Feng-wang-cheng on the 6th inst.

"The enemy, before evacuating, burnt ammunition. The enemy's refugees continue to come out from adjoining forests and villages and surrender."

"Natives say that the Russian wounded, which passed Feng-wang-cheng on litters on the 2nd inst., amounted to 800, and the total casualties probably exceed 3,000."

RUSSIA'S ENORMOUS LOSSES.

Other telegrams indicate that Russia's enormous losses in the battle of the Yalu have been underestimated. A Reuter message from Tokio says that the Japanese have buried 1,400 Russians, and have 503 Russian wounded in the field hospitals, while over 300 prisoners are on their way to Matsuyama.

After account says that of the Russians killed there were seven officers and 855 men; 600 men and one officer were missing, and 1,850 wounded; or a total of 3,313.

400 RUSSIANS SURRENDER.

There is a report from Antung, dated Monday last, that while the Japanese were pursuing 1,000 Russians on the Feng-wang-cheng road, the latter made a stand, but sustained severe losses in a Japanese charge. The Russians, says Reuter, spiked their guns, and 400 surrendered.

CONFIDENT RUSSIAN TROOPS.

Advices from Mukden indicate that the Russian troops leaving for the front are in excellent spirits and express confidence in the eventual success of the Russian arms.

"They ask their officers when they may expect to reach Japan, and are already asking the Japanese names for tobacco, tea, etc."

The Chinese are greatly impressed when the men each night uncover while the priests recite the evening prayer, and listen with wonder to the Russian folksongs which the troops sing.

MUZHIKS AND MOTOR-CAR.

Russian Peasants Wreck an Automobile as a Japanese Invention.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KIEFF, Thursday.

A project having been approved by the Russian Ministry of Communications for a motor-car service between Zhitomir and Kieff, a trial was made this week, with results that bode ill for the success of the undertaking.

The road to Zhitomir, although good, passes through a wild country, and the car had not proceeded far before its occupants were saluted with a volley of stones thrown from behind a hillock.

At one village the peasants joined hands across the road in an endeavour to stop the "infernal machine," but the chauffeur charged them down and two men were slightly injured.

About a mile farther on the car broke down, and was at once surrounded by a howling mob of muzhiks, who hacked at the tyres with hatchets, and overpowering the occupants, dragged the motor off the road and threw it into a ravine.

Many peasants regarded the evil-smelling monster as a "Japanese invention."

AT WAR WITHOUT KNOWING IT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERNE, Sunday.

The principality of Lichtenstein, in Austria, near the Swiss frontier, has been at war for the last thirty-eight years without being aware of the fact. In 1866, at the beginning of the war between Prussia and Austria, the Prince of Lichtenstein joined the latter power. When peace was made the principality was forgotten and it never signed the treaty.

In consequence, according to precedent, a state of war still exists between Prussia and Lichtenstein.

SOMALI CLIMATE'S DEADLY WORK.

Reuter understands that, in pursuance of the new policy of the Government in Somaliland, some 4,000 Indian and other troops will leave the country as soon as the necessary transport can be secured.

General Egerton will proceed to assume his command in Madras, and General Manning, who is seriously ill as the result of the hardships of the campaign, will probably return to England at an early date.

"GAMALIEL" BECOMES A PUPIL.

There was a time when the British merchant had very few rivals in the field at Hankow. Now he has many, and some are of his own making. His European competitors are yearly becoming more numerous and more formidable, says Mr. Playfair, the British Acting Consul-General. They came in flattering imitation of himself, and at first "sat at the feet of Gamaliel," but have by this time learned all there was to learn, and have in many ways bettered his instruction. His best resource is now to sit at the feet of his quondam pupils, and learn, like them, to pick up the crumbs that fall from the table. Except in shipping and banking, commerce, with a big "C," has passed out of his hands, and nothing seems left him but trade with a small "c."

CUTTING OFF PORT ARTHUR.

High Military Authority Discusses the Latest Japanese Move.

ITS LESSON FOR US.

Naturally the investment of Port Arthur has been the subject of animated discussion in all the Service clubs during the past two days. A *Mirror* representative, seeking for an authoritative opinion upon it, was fortunate enough to be taken into the confidence of a high military authority.

"First of all," said this distinguished officer, "I want you to insist upon the bearing these events have on British naval policy. The Japanese could do nothing against the Russians if they had not gained command of the sea. The Russians are tremendously handicapped on land by having lost it. The lesson must not be lost upon us."

"As to the landing of Japanese troops at Pitsewo and Port Adams, it follows naturally upon the defeat of the Russians on the Yalu. So long as the enemy was at Antung and Kiu-leng-cheng, it would not have been safe for the Japanese to land lower down the coast, for they might have been caught between two fires. An advance from Port Arthur and a simultaneous movement from the banks of the Yalu would have put them in an awkward position."

WHERE THE FIRST FIGHT MAY BE.

"Now that the Russians have been driven from the Yalu banks, the Japs will land near the coast and make their preparations for attacking Port Arthur by land. It is quite probable that the first fight will be at Kinchau (of which we published a picture on Friday). The Russians hold this place and may make a stand there. The Chinese did in 1894, though they were defeated by the Japs without any difficulty."

"But the town is commanded by hills within easy artillery range, so it is more probable that the stand will be made about two miles on the Port Arthur side of Kinchau, where the peninsula is very narrow. At the same time we must recollect that the Japanese could use their ships from both sides of it, so, on the whole, I am inclined to think that the Russians may decide to content themselves with awaiting the Japanese at Port Arthur itself."

At any rate, Port Arthur is pretty certain to be put into a state of siege before long, and the investment is likely to be a long business. The port is strongly defended on the land side by a chain of forts, and the garrison consists probably of about 25,000 men. In time, however, it is bound to be starved out, even if it is not stormed, for it will be cut off from the world by the Japanese army on land and by the Japanese fleet at sea. But I make no doubt that a large supply of food stores has been accumulated—enough, perhaps, for many months.

"It is just possible, of course, that General Kuropatkin might send a force from Mukden or Liao-yang; but no one thinks this is likely."

WHEN PORT ARTHUR FALLS.

"When Port Arthur falls and Vladivostok is taken, and the Russians are driven back beyond Mukden, as I should think they would be in a few months if General Kuroki meets with no serious check, the Russian game will be up. Her army will have been disorganised. Her Treasury will be depleted. Her Baltic fleet will be useless, for with Port Arthur in Jap hands there will be no harbour to receive it. Her Far Eastern fleet will have ceased to exist."

"What will happen then? I imagine Russia will look round for some 'intercessor,' will try to get together a combination of Powers to prevent Japan keeping the fruits of her victory."

"This plan succeeded in 1895. Japan was not permitted to keep the territory—the same territory she is fighting for now—which she had then wrested from the feeble grasp of China. But do you suppose it would have equal success now? I do not believe it for a moment. Even should both France and Germany try to help Russia out, Japan would remain firm, and these two Powers would have to decide whether they would fight Japan and Britain and perhaps the United States, or leave Russia to her fate."

"For my part I think Russia will have to agree to keep out of Manchuria, not to have more than one or two ships in Far Eastern waters, and to pay Japan a large indemnity. That has been my forecast all along, and now that events are developing so rapidly I am more sure than ever that it will turn out correct."

PANIC ON A SHIP.

It is happily seldom that a Board of Trade report on a collision at sea finds that British seamen were panic-stricken.

The crew of the steamship Coogee, of Melbourne, however, when in collision with an Italian ship in Bass Strait on Christmas Day deserted their ship in a body and boarded the Fortunato Figari, although the chief engineer assured them their own ship remained seaworthy. The report states that the extraordinary conduct of the chief mate can only be reconciled with the assumption that he was dazed, and rendered partially irresponsible for his actions through the injuries and shock he had sustained.

THREE DAYS AT THE PUMPS.

Terrible sufferings were experienced by the crew of the French barque Union, who, having been rescued by the English steamer Haverford, of Liverpool, were landed at Havre yesterday. The barque became waterlogged in the Atlantic, and for three days and nights was only kept from foundering by continuous work at the pumps. The crew of twenty-seven were quite exhausted when rescued.

Stepney has this year a surplus of £12,792, in respect of its electric supply, which has so far not cost the ratepayers a single penny.

Mr. Pretymann, in a printed answer to Mr. Harcourt, M.P., states that the average annual cost of maintaining a first-class battleship in commission was £24,000, of which £20,569 was for wages, etc., of the officers and crew.

BATTLE IN TIBET.

Fierce Fighting for Six Hours
in a Snowstorm.

200 TIBETANS SLAIN.

Little Gurkhas' Gallant Attack on
Gigantic Foes.

CAPTAIN BETHUNE KILLED.

A Reuter's Special Service telegram, dated from the British camp at Karo Pass on Friday, gives details of fresh and serious fighting.

The British moved out to drive the Tibetans from the positions they had occupied two miles below the pass. A long fight, lasting six hours, followed, the Tibetans showing extraordinary tenacity in holding a wall which they had built across the pass, with two sangars on the right and left.

The fight began at ten o'clock, in a snowstorm, by the enemy opening on the Maxims of the British force at 800 yards. The Sikhs rushed forward in great style up to the main wall.

In the rush Captain Bethune was killed and a dozen men were hit.

The remainder found it impossible to carry the wall, which was then fired at by the Maxims and the mountain guns for over two hours, the enemy replying with great spirit.

DROVE THE TIBETANS HEADLONG.

Then a body of Gurkhas got above the sangar on the left and drove the Tibetans headlong. The right sangar was similarly taken by twenty-five Sikhs, who climbed a lofty mountain and fired down on the Tibetans, who, in fleeing, had to expose themselves on the face of the precipice, and were mown down by the Maxims and rifle fire from below.

When the enemy saw their right and left flanks turned they abandoned their main position. The mounted infantry in pursuit did great execution. The enemy's losses are estimated at 150 to 200, but might be much larger.

The British had one officer and three men killed, and twenty-one men wounded. All the Tibetans who fought were of gigantic stature, and during the fight they shouted like wild animals. In addition to a gun, each man carried a sword and a 6ft. spear.

TIBETANS' CLEVERLY-PLANNED WALL.

The wall which the Tibetans had constructed at the Karo Pass was built across the mouth of the gorge, and was five feet high and 800 yards in length. It was cleverly loopholed, and when first observed last Tuesday was defended by from 1,000 to 1,500 men.

The British reconnoitring party was fired on by the defenders, and a great avalanche of stones was rolled down on them from the sangars on the hill on either side.

This is the second time within a week that the Tibetans have been routed. They attacked the mission camp at Gyantse on Thursday, and were repulsed with a loss of 250 killed and wounded.

WOMAN'S DEADLY STRUGGLE.

Four Children Witness a Murderous
Attack on Their Mother.

A domestic tragedy occurred at Burton-on-Trent on Saturday night. Edward Slater, a blacksmith's striker at Bass's brewery, on returning home entered the room where his wife was bathing the children, and attacked her with a razor. The woman resisted desperately, and the pair rolled on the floor in a deadly struggle.

The four children, who witnessed the struggle, brought in the neighbours by their terrified screams. Slater had overpowered his wife, and was cutting at her throat when assistance arrived, and the woman was rescued after a severe struggle. Immediately afterwards Slater committed suicide.

CLEARING 'A THEATRE.

Proctor's Theatre at Harlem, New York, was destroyed by fire on Saturday night. One of the actors came to the footlights and told the audience that a fire had broken out next door; but that he thought it would be better to close the performance.

Then sixteen policemen appeared with drawn clubs and took up positions in the gangways. The captain of the police shouted out loud enough for the whole audience to hear, "If anybody starts to stampee he gets his head knocked off with a club."

The theatre was completely cleared within six minutes of the time the fire was discovered.

FAMOUS SINGER DEAD.

VIENNA, Sunday.

Mme. Emma Babinig, the famous singer, died here on Thursday, at the age of eighty. For half a century she was one of the most celebrated vocalists of Europe, 230 operas being included in her repertoire.

Mme. Babinig was in her time received by Queen Victoria, the Emperor Napoleon III., and the Empress Eugénie, all of whom corresponded with her. Among her friends were Schumann, Meyerbeer, Mendelssohn, Wagner, and Liszt.—Reuter.

Another child has been fatally burnt through being dressed in a flannelette garment. At the inquest on Edith Slack, the five-year-old daughter of parents living in Kingsland, the coroner described the stuff as "the most dangerous material sold in drapers' shops."

Mr. J. Causton, aged 99, has given an address lasting half an hour in a Norwich chapel.

Mr. Forbes Robertson is making arrangements to take the Savoy Theatre for the London season.

Walsall Guardians have decided to provide six dozen pairs of spectacles for the paupers, at 3d. a pair.

An elderly man, convicted of drunkenness at Stratford, had been found by the police entering a neighbour's door, which he had opened with his latch-key in mistake for his own.

Mr. John Bennet, a retired draper, of Birkdale, has been awarded £425 damages at Liverpool for injuries he received in the accident on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway at Waterloo Station.

Permission has been granted by the L.C.C. to take through the parapet wall of the Victoria Embankment service lines for the supply of electricity to H.M.S. Buzzard, the Naval Volunteer training ship.

NORTHAMPTON FLOATED.

H.M.S. Northampton, which grounded on a bank in Queenstown harbour on Friday morning, was safely towed off at high water yesterday. It is not supposed that the hull is in any way injured, but the training ship will be placed in dry dock.

L.C.C. RATES.

In order to provide the sum of £4,360,764 required for administration purposes by the London County Council, out of the rate, a rate will be recommended at to-morrow's meeting of 7.25d. in the £ for general county purposes, and 1.625d. in the £ for special county purposes.

WHILE SAVING A CHILD.

While two children were crossing Kennington-road on Saturday, one, a little girl, ran in front of an approaching motor-car. A woman named Alice Burgoyne, of Kennington, ran to her assistance, but was knocked down and severely injured about the head, arm, and leg. She was conveyed to St. Thomas's Hospital.

HARDENED CRIMINAL AT ELEVEN.

John Finn, of Scarborough, began to steal when nine, and now at eleven has six convictions for felony recorded against him.

Miss Vickers, a confectioner, found him behind her counter, and when she seized him he struck her savagely on the hands. He was searched at the police station, and eight shillings, which he had stolen from the till, were found in a bag hidden under his waistcoat. He was remanded to the workhouse.

BOER BULLET KILLS AT LAST.

Edward Nockall, a labourer, of Willesden, was admitted to Guy's Hospital on the 29th ult. suffering from the effects of a bullet wound received in South Africa. The wound, which had healed, had reopened, and poison had crept in. He died last Monday from asphyxia when suffering from lock-jaw, following on the poisoned wound.

At the inquest on Saturday a verdict was returned in accordance with the medical evidence.

"A VERY BAD BOY."

James Wright, fourteen, was charged at West Ham Police Court with stealing from Stratford vegetable market a donkey, barrow, and harness, valued at £9, the property of John Peddington.

Prisoner was seen driving the donkey at Victoria Park, and when questioned said he had taken it to have a ride, and frankly admitted that he intended to buy some cabbage and hawk them round the streets with the donkey and barrow.

Wright, who was said to be "a very bad boy," was remanded.

FACTS FOR TARIFF REFORMERS.

During the past month the value of the imports into the United Kingdom was £45,181,436, an increase of £1,979,000 on the corresponding period in 1903, while the exports during the same period were £23,484,834, or £243,461 more than in the corresponding month last year.

The value of the imports during the four months ended April last was £184,071,560, or an increase of £6,896,369 on the corresponding period in 1903, while the exports reached the sum of £95,714,808, or £208,831 less than the exports during the same period last year.

ARTISTS REDUCED TO BEGGING.

Writing of the prospects of a young artist whose work is sufficiently good to ensure it a place in the Royal Academy, Mr. G. F. Watts says, in the "Weekly Dispatch": "Such a lad, if he be poor, has a very bad prospect confronting him. The artistic profession is lamentably overcrowded. Every week, almost every day, I receive letters—begging letters from artists who imagine me to be a wealthy man."

"I am sorry to discourage, but these lamentable circumstances, as far as Art is concerned, at least, are due to the fact that there is no real love of Art in the English character. While we find the Academy crowded because it is the fashion, the New Gallery, where really the best work is shown is absolutely deserted."

A DRAUGHTY DEMONSTRATION.

If London's interest in the Licensing Bill is to be judged by Saturday's chilly "demonstration," it is very small. The gathering was not a large one, and of those who did help to fill Trafalgar-square a good many were obviously loafers, who would quite as soon have heard speeches made, not against, but in favour of Compensation for publicans whose licences are taken away because they are not required. The speakers made up in vehemence for what they lacked in distinction. The best known were Mr. Crenshaw, M.P., of Greenwich, and the Rev. F. B. Meyer. At six o'clock a shivering resolution was passed, denouncing the Bill, and then everybody cleared off quickly to try and find some warmer spot than "the Square."

A picture of the meeting and a portrait of a speaker, Rev. Silvester Hoare, appear on page 1.

MUCH NEWS IN FEW WORDS.

Arthur Hill, a Mile End child, was fatally scalded through walking backwards into a sauceman of boiling water, which had been left on the floor.

During the week ended April 30, the receipts on the L.C.C. tramways amounted to £10,684, an increase of £2,229 on the corresponding period of last year.

Over 900 horses have been entered for the Annual Cart-Horse Parade in Regent's Park on Whit Monday, this being the largest show of cart-horses yet held in this country.

George Mizen, a King's Cross publican, has died in the Royal Free Hospital from injuries received through falling from a chair whilst attempting to extinguish the gas.

POACHING ON PRINCESS'S PRESERVES.

For trespassing on the Osborne estate, at Barton, with the intention of hunting the hedgerows, a tailor of East Cowes has been convicted.

A gamekeeper to Princess Henry of Battenberg proved the case, and it was stated that defendant had been a great nuisance. The shooting rights on the Osborne estate have been given to Princess Henry of Battenberg by the King for her sons, the young Princes of Battenberg.

STUDENT'S FALL FROM A CLIFF.

While three students of Gordon's College, Aberdeen, were walking along a narrow path at the top of the cliffs between Aberdeen and Cove, one of them, named Robert Ogilvie Reid, slipped and fell into the sea, a distance of a hundred feet. Owing to the roughness of the sea the efforts of fishermen to reach him failed. The body has not been recovered.

NO WEALTH NEEDED THERE.

According to Mr. Carnegie, who certainly should know something of the subject, a library is the happiest place in the world. Speaking at Kettering at the opening of a new free library, which he has presented to the town, he said a library was the cradle of democracy. Men had no need of rank or wealth there. They sat in the highest society in the world.

NORFOLK M.P. TO RETIRE.

Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., intimated to the leaders of the Conservative Party in Norwich on Saturday afternoon that he would not seek re-election after the close of the present Parliament. Sir Samuel, who was created baronet in 1899, has represented Norwich in the Conservative interest since 1886, when he was returned unopposed. In 1885 he unsuccessfully contested North Norfolk.

CHILDREN MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEAR.

The Leicester police are diligently searching for two little boys. George Love, four years of age, went out to play with his companion, who, on returning alone, was asked where George was. He grimly replied, "In the canal." The body has not yet been recovered.

Ten days ago the four-year-old son of Mrs. Squires, of Kegworth, also disappeared. It is feared he has been kidnapped by gipsies.

TRIPS IN CLOUDLAND.

The first meeting of the season of the Aero Club was held at the Crystal Palace on Saturday afternoon, when two successful ascents were made.

The Aero Club balloon, No. 1, which was in charge of Mr. Pollock and Captain Huntington, and the "Graphic" balloon, in which were Mr. Paul Spencer, Mr. Middleton, and Mr. Materson, both made successful ascents. The balloons made excellent trips in cloudland, and the aeronauts had most enjoyable voyages.

The balloon which was in charge of Mr. Spencer landed in the evening at Appledore, Kent, and balloon No. 1 descended safely at Dungeness. Pictures appear on page 1.

BURGLARS SORELY DISAPPOINTED.

After spending hours in entering and ransacking the booking-office at Ilkeston Junction, some burglars have had to retire with a net profit of sixpence. They attempted to force the doors, but failing, broke through a window; wrenched down the wire guard protecting the pigeon-hole of the ticket-office, and crept through there. Then they broke open seven drawers and cupboards—and all they were able to find was six penny postage stamps.

WHO IS ENGLAND'S GREATEST BOWLER?

Who is the greatest bowler in England to-day? The answer is difficult—very difficult, says Mr. P. F. Warner, in the "Westminster Gazette." "I could tell you who was the best bowler on a sticky wicket—Rhodes; who the best on a crumbling wicket—Lockwood; who the best under conditions favourable to the batsmen—Lockwood again; and who most likely to screw every bit of assistance out of wicket—Arnold, or Barnes, or Rhodes. "But to say without fear of contradiction that So-and-so was the best bowler would be rash. Shall I be venturesome, none the less, and suggest Rhodes?"

"Yet I think if one goes carefully into Rhodes's performances on all wickets since he first appeared in county cricket in 1888 one will recognise that he, more perhaps than anyone else, is entitled to be called the champion bowler of to-day."

CONFESSED HIMSELF A FAILURE.

Thomas Smith, when charged with theft at Rochdale, admitted his guilt and said he was a very unsuccessful thief, for he was always caught when he attempted to steal. "My name," he said, "was said to be Harwood, but he bears at least half a dozen aliases, and since 1870 has been in prison twenty-four years for burglaries and other crimes."

On Saturday he was sentenced for another nine months.

While sitting at breakfast at the Tharnis Copper Works, Cardiff, John Gatehouse suddenly expired. The cause of death has not yet been explained.

After being out of work for three months a Hoxton labourer named Egan was killed by falling from a scaffold immediately after obtaining a situation.

Mr. Joshua Field, J.P., partner of the firm of Maudslays, Sons, & Field, which built the great wheel at Earl's Court, has died at his house by Hiam Common.

Two of the excursionists in the car upset near Cahir, when returning from witnessing the King and Queen pass through Clogheen, died on Saturday of their injuries. One was a deaf mute.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S BOOTS SOLD.

A member of the Surrey County Council, having refused to pay the Education rate, a distraint was levied upon eight pairs of boots in his shop, he being a clothier and outfitter. They were put up to auction at Horsham Police Station and bought in by one of the defendant's shop assistants.

CHESTNUT SUNDAY.

Next Sunday will be Chestnut Sunday, when, should the weather prove favourable, the famous chestnut avenue at Bushey Park, Hampton Court, will be in full bloom. There is every promise this year of a fine display of blossom on the trees.

CAUGHT IN A HOLLOW POST.

In breaking into a boot shop in Regent-road, Salford, one of three men fell into a hollow post, and his companions, endeavouring to extricate him, made a noise and attracted the notice of a woman, who informed the police.

On Saturday the men, Joseph Davis, John Cotgreave, and Joseph Lambert, were committed to the sessions.

"WALKING PARSON" IN SPAIN.

The Rev. A. N. Cooper, vicar of Fifeley, near Scarborough, whose pedestrian feats have earned for him the title of the Walking Parson, has recently finished another long walk. A postcard has just been received from him from the Grand Hotel d'Angleterre, Barcelona, dated May 3, stating: "Have arrived here safely, having walked 400 miles and crossed the Pyrenees in twelve days, and am quite well."

CHASED HIS WIFE WITH A RAZOR.

George Hoppner's dispute with his wife attracted a great crowd in Stapleton-road, Bristol, but when he drew a razor on her and she fled up the street the crowd scattered.

At the police court his wife said he had done no work for two years, her father having to support him. Prisoner was ordered to find surety for his good behaviour for six months, or go to prison for fourteen days.

DON'T KNOW THEIR BIRTHDAYS.

"They do not register births in America," said a coloured vocalist at the West London Police Court, "so I cannot tell you when these picnicians were born. To have a birth certificate they must be born again."

Mr. Smith, the acting manager of the Empire Music Hall, Shepherd's Bush, was applying for permission to enable the two coloured children mentioned to play in a sketch. Their ages were about thirteen and eleven, and the permission was granted.

SCOTLAND'S BIRTH-RATE FALLING.

During the past year 133,469 births were registered in Scotland, equivalent to 29.2 per 1,000 of the population. This is the same rate as for 1902, but is smaller than that for all preceding years. Of these births, 8,183, or 6.13 per cent., were illegitimate, which is the lowest rate recorded in Scotland.

On the other hand, the death-rate, 16.59 per 1,000, was lower than in any year since 1896, while the 32,330 marriages recorded were about equal to the number solemnised in the previous year.

MUSIC-MADDENED PONY.

Students of music at the Guildhall School will doubtless resent the suggestion that their combined efforts have driven a pony mad; but that seems the only explanation of the poor brute's insanity, which became so acute that it had to be killed at Enfield.

With a cart which it had brought to London (being then sane enough) it was left three hours in charge of a boy loose to the Guildhall School of Music, and all that time the creature, with its windows the sound of tortured pianos and fiddles, of shrieking sopranos and howling tenors. When removed the poor animal became decidedly erratic, and soon developed the madness which necessitated its being slaughtered.

LIFEBOAT SATURDAY.

The usual street collections for the National Lifeboat Institution were made throughout the metropolis on Saturday, it being the day set apart as "Lifeboat Saturday."

At an early hour, in the most prominent places in the City and West End, and at all the principal railway and tramway termini, sailor lads from several training ships took up their stands with collecting boxes, which were embellished with Union Jacks.

The money collected on "Lifeboat Saturday" is applied to grants to widows and young children of the gallant lifeboat men who have lost their lives by endeavouring to rescue others; grants to men who receive injuries in the service; and pensions to men of long and meritorious service. The net amount realised by last year's "Lifeboat Saturday" collections amounted to £19,777 12s. 2d., whilst the sum paid in connection with the objects mentioned was £24,840 4s. 10d.

A private of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards fell out of a window at Chelsea Barracks and was instantly killed.

The Countess Nelson died at three o'clock yesterday morning at Trafalgar House, Salisbury, after a lingering illness.

Traffic on the Tube was on Saturday entirely suspended for half an hour owing to the failure of the electric current.

Headed by Dr. Tisley, Catholic Bishop of Birmingham, and accompanied by Archbishop Bourne, over a hundred persons left Holborn Viaduct on Saturday for the annual procession at Bruges, Belgium.

An escape of gas from one of the large pipes under the yard of the Black Bull Hotel, Holborn, caught fire on Saturday afternoon and burned through the ground for over an hour, in spite of the efforts of the firemen.

OLD MASTERS REALISE £20,575.

During the four hours' sale which was held at Messrs. Christie's on Saturday afternoon, £20,575 was paid for some pictures by old masters and early English painters. The highest price obtained was for Gainsborough's portrait of Lady Mary Impey, which realised £2,800 guineas. Romney's portrait of Catherine I. Lady Abercorn, fetched 2,000 guineas. A Velasquez, "The Infant Don Baltazar Carlos," went for 1,500 guineas.

L.C.C. AND COMPENSATION.

Mr. Dolman has given notice to move at the next meeting of the L.C.C. that it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to consider the advisability of urging the Government to extend the operation of the Licensing Bill so as to include compensation for publicans whose premises are required by local authorities for public purposes.

SOLD THE FIREGUARD FOR FOOD.

When giving evidence at the inquest upon the body of his little two-year-old boy, who died from the effects of burns he received through his father catching light from the fire, his mother told the Burton coroner that she had recently been compelled to sell her fireguard for 6d. because her children were crying for food.

BAFFLES THE CHANNEL SWIMMERS.

Recently a large number of barrels of gunpowder were jettisoned on the Goodwin Sands. Some have been washed ashore at St. Margaret's Bay, and some were picked up between Calais and Boulogne.

This shows how strangely variable are the currents in the English Channel, and how difficult it is for those trying to swim across it to gauge them.

STOLE THE SLEEPER'S TROUSERS.

Luke Wood, who has four times previously suffered penal servitude for similar offences, and has also received the "cat," entered the house of a Thomas Marsden at Withnell, and took, amongst other things, the trousers of the sleeping occupant, leaving them on the doorstep outside the house after he had rifled the pockets. When arrested, a few days later, he attempted to fire a revolver at his captors.

At Liverpool he was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.

FREE OPERA TICKETS FOR CLERGY.

At Drury Lane Theatre next week an English opera company will challenge comparison with the collection of foreign star artists singing at Covent Garden. Mr. Charles Manners has taken Drury Lane for three months, and during that time the Moody-Manners Opera Company will present all the well-known operas in English. The prices will be popular, ranging from a shilling gallery to six-shilling stalls, and in special cases Mr. Manners will place free tickets at the disposal of the clergy and others who feel with him that the combination of the lyric and dramatic stage cannot fail to be an influence for good.

SIR CHARLES WYNNDHAM'S TOUR.

Great sympathy will be felt for Sir Charles Wyndham, whose unfortunate accident in striking his head against a beam under the stage, has had rather more serious effects than appeared at first, but his numerous admirers hope that the effects may speedily pass away. Sir Charles is leaving England for an extensive tour in the States and Australia under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman, who expects Sir Charles will make a great success, having been absent from the States a long time, and Australia being entirely new ground. We understand he has let the New Theatre to Mr. Hamilton Croke, and Mr. Curzon has added the Criterion and Wyndham's to his list.

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DEFENDANTS IN THE SLATER CASE.



In the dock, reading from left to right of the picture, are Smith, Bray, Davies, and Henry. Osborn and Slater are sitting in front of the dock. (Sketches in court by a "Mirror" artist.)

SLATER'S FROM WITHIN.

Incidents Connected with Reports by Mr. Pollard's Companion in Jersey.

"MUST NOT SEE DAYLIGHT."

With the exception of a Somerset House official, whose evidence was of a formal character, George Fielding, a pensioned police-sergeant, who was employed by Slater's Detective Agency from 1895 until July, 1903, was the only witness called at Bow-street on Saturday during the further hearing of the conspiracy charges arising out of the sensational Pollard divorce suit.

Henry Scott, otherwise Slater, the proprietor of the detective agency, and Albert Osborn, Mrs. Pollard's solicitor, were given seats in front of the dock. In the dock itself stood the other four accused men—George Philip Henry, manager to Slater's Detective Agency; and John Pracey, otherwise Bray; Frederick Davies; and Cyril Smith, detectives employed by Slater's.

Fielding stated in his evidence that during his term of employment at Slater's he also knew Scott, whom he regarded as the principal, by the names of Slater and Captain Brown.

The offices were at No. 1, Basinghall-street, where Osborn was a frequent visitor. The latter's office, in Coleman-street, City, was connected with Slater's by a private telephonic wire.

With regard to the reports which were sent to the office by detectives concerning the movements of Pollard, Fielding said he was instructed by Henry to make a fair copy of each one and send them to Osborn.

"Must Not See Daylight."

He knew of Davies having gone to Jersey, but he did not see any reports from him concerning his visit. He informed Henry of that fact and the latter smilingly explained "Oh! they must not see daylight."

Once, when Osborn called at the office, Fielding told him that he understood from Henry that Davies's reports from Jersey were not required.

Osborn, in reply, said "That's right; there's nothing in them."

On another occasion Fielding overheard Henry tell Osborn that he was not getting on very well at Plymouth with the Pollard case. Osborn slapped Henry on the back and offered to go to Plymouth and see what he could do and Henry then said "I wish you would, Albert."

Sent by Mr. Knowles.

Fielding remembered once a registered packet coming to the office for Henry. It contained a diamond stud and pin combined, which Henry said had been sent to him by Mr. Knowles.

In cross-examination Fielding admitted that it was not unusual for stockbrokers or solicitors to have their offices connected with that of their clients by a private wire.

He had been shadowed, he said, ever since a man named Stevens left the firm. Stevens had joined Simmonds and Cartwright in a new agency. Mr. Scott was very seldom at the office. He was abroad for some time, but even when in England he was a very infrequent caller.

At the conclusion of Fielding's evidence the hearing of the case was adjourned for another week.

THE CITY.

Stock markets of Saturday started well, though they were pulled up by the fact that Paris did not seem too confident of the Rouble, and the result was a general fall. The feature of the day was the strength of the gilt-edged section, and especially of the new scrips, the £100 loan proving short at the settlement, and rising at one time to 91 premium.

The slackening of business in Home Rails did not prevent that market from showing a good tendency in spite of the nearness of the settlement, and even Americans were disposed to recover.

There was uncertainty as to the Argentine group, with a few good features, but Canadian Rails were better, and the Mexican section was quiet.

Support is still given to Japanese bonds, in view of the new loan, and the Argentine President's remarks on the necessity of his country's carrying out a light account. Other mining series were mostly dull.

A new Cape Town four per cent. loan, to the amount of £200,000, at 98 was announced.

LATEST MARKET PRICES.

* The "Daily Illustrated Mirror" prices are the latest available. Unlike most of the competitors we take special care to obtain the last quotations in the Street markets after the official close of the Stock Exchange.

The following are the closing prices for the day:	
Consols 2½ p. 89½	Welsbach Ord. 1
Do Account 80	Anglo-French 3½
India 3 p. 94½	Assanti G. F. 2½
* London C.C. 3 p. 92½	Assa G. F. 2½
Argentine Fund 103	Barrat's Cons. 3½
Brazilian 4 p. 189 73	Champ. Reef 30
Chinese 5 p. 189 80	Chong Ching 2½
* Egyptian Unifed 104	City & Sub. 6
Japan 4 p. 189 82	Cons. & S.A. 6
Midland 4 p. 189 80	Crown Reef 15
Spanish 4 p. (S.A.) 81	De Beers Def. 19
Turkish 4 p. Unid. 81	East Rand 7½
Brighton Def. 119	Edinburgh 7½
Calcutta Def. 32	Geduld 6
Central Eastern 92	Gladstone 5
Gold Northern Def. 41	Gold's Horsehoe 7½
Great Western 142	Gr. Bld. Prop. 210
Midland Def. 79	Harb. Prop. 8
North British Def. 44	Ho. Financ. 10
North Eastern 143	Imperial 2½
North Western 169	John. Cons. 2½
South Eastern Def. 77	Knights 5½
Atchison 74	Lang. Cons. 4½
Chl. Mil. & S. 146	Meyer & Charl. 6
Eliz. Sharn. 23	Moody's 10
L'ville and N'ville 119	Myers Gold 6
Southern Pacific 45	Nile Valley 11
Union Pacific 89	S. Copper 2½
U.S. Steel Ord. 106	Nundyrho 11
Do Prof. 96	Oran. Br. Wharf 14
* Rosario Cons. 94	Printemps 3½
Canadian Pacific 121	Rand Mines 10
G'd. Trk. & Pac. 101	Refr. 10
Aerated Bread 9	Trass. Devel. 11
Hudson Bay 40	Wash. 6
Lipton 189	Wells 11
London & N. 189	Wells 11
Nelson's 148	Wells 11
Sweetwater Auto 17	Zambesi Explor. 11
Vickers, Maxim. 114	

* Ex div.

PROPHECYING DIVORCE.

Fortune-teller and His Lady Clients' Matrimonial Prospects.

For a considerable time on Saturday the Liverpool stipendiary magistrate was engaged in listening to the recital by a number of young ladies of their experiences with a fortune teller. Their matrimonial prospects had been the chief subject under consideration, but in nearly every instance the seer's prognostications were of the most doleful character.

Police proceedings had been taken against George Rexford Smith and Sarah Elizabeth Train, who occupied premises in Slater-street. One witness called to prove the nature of their business was a young lady named Elsie Phair. She was told that at twenty-seven she would contract an unhappy marriage, which would end in divorce or a separation.

Miss Margaret Phair was assured that she would marry twice and live abroad. She was also promised a family of six children.

Another young lady paid a fee of a shilling, which was the sum parted with by Miss Margaret Phair, but she was only to have a family of four.

The "Prophecy" in Doubt.

The case of Mrs. Gertrude Booth appeared to have been a difficult one in which to arrive at any definite conclusion. Smith said he could not make up his mind whether she was divorced or had lost her husband at sea, though, happily, her husband was alive. He, however, assured her she would marry again. "You are more fond of other people's boys than your own," he added.

Smith was fined £5 and costs, and Train, who denied that she was acting professionally, was bound over.

Professor Fred Chilton, of the Arcade, Lord-street, Liverpool, was charged with the same offence. The same witnesses gave evidence, but the future marked out for them by Chilton appeared to be in every case quite different from that sketched by Smith.

He was fined £7 and costs.

DISCORD IN FLATS.

No Legal Remedy Against the Energies of Meddlesome Neighbours.

A gentleman complained on Saturday to Mr. Garrett, the South-Western Police Court magistrate, of the annoyance caused him by a neighbour, who occupied the adjoining flat, playing the piano at all hours of the day and night. It had become so incessant that his rest was, he said, seriously disturbed.

Mr. Garrett, while sympathizing with the applicant in his dilemma said he was afraid he had no legal remedy, inasmuch as one was privileged when in his own house to amuse himself at the piano whenever he liked.

Applicant: I was under the impression that the Courts had held that a person so annoying his neighbours would be proceeded against for a nuisance.

Mr. Garrett: No, I don't think that is so. The decision of the Court, if I remember rightly, was to the effect that a neighbour need not consider or comply with the wishes of those living next door.

Applicant: Then have I no remedy?

Mr. Garrett: Approach him in a friendly way, and if he is at all reasonable he will no doubt meet with you in a neighbourly spirit. The applicant thanked the magistrate for his advice, but expressed no confidence in his neighbour showing similar consideration.

SURGEON'S LOST FORCEPS.

Remarkable Circumstances Under Which They Were Ultimately Found.

Mr. Luxmoore Drew, the West London coroner, on Saturday concluded his inquiry into the very remarkable circumstances attending the death of Alice Piercy, the wife of a Hammersmith waterman, who died in the West London Hospital.

Mrs. Piercy, who was taken to the hospital suffering from hemorrhage, underwent an operation on March 8. This was performed by Mr. Stephen Paget, of Harley-street. Subsequently Mr. Paget, having in the meanwhile gone abroad, Mr. Donald Armour, who had taken over the case, found it necessary on April 15 to perform another operation, which disclosed the presence of a pair of forceps about an inch long.

The patient dying two days later, Dr. Warren Low made an autopsy, and pronounced death due to peritonitis, accelerated by the presence of the forceps.

Mr. Stephen Paget, who had had seventeen years' experience at the hospital, told the coroner that eight or ten pairs of forceps were used in the operation, which had to be a very rapid one, as the woman was practically dying every minute. If they had not worked she would have died on the operating table. The suggestion that he had been hurrying in order to attend to another case he repudiated as monstrous.

Sir Victor Horsley testified to Mr. Paget's ability and conscientiousness as an operator. He had known instances of forceps being left in patients for several days, and if properly sterilised they would do no harm.

The jury, in returning a verdict to the effect that death was due to peritonitis following an operation, accelerated by the presence of the forceps, and was due to misadventure, added the following rider—

"We consider the system at the hospital is largely at fault, and suggest that all instruments should be numbered, and counted before and after each operation."

The solicitor to the hospital authorities had previously expressed their deep regret at the patient's unfortunate death, and the willingness of the committee of management to carry out any suggestions.

A CAUTIOUS JEW.

Giving evidence on Saturday at Southwark in support of a charge of unlawful possession preferred against Henry New, fifty, a labourer, P.C. 128, L. Division, said the prisoner offered three gross of white composition combs to a Jew in the New Cut. The latter inquired of witness whether he would be justified in buying them.

Mr. Plowden: Very cautious on the part of the Jew. How did you know he was a Jew?—Because he said so.

Is he here?—No.

Mr. Plowden: Ah, the Devil passed by on the other side.

New was remanded for inquiries.

MUSIC-HALL ARTIST'S STRANGE SUIT.

Mrs. Bernard, a music-hall artist, who in the Chancery Division sought to obtain a declaration that she was under certain conditions entitled to £1,000 worth of Allsopp's stock, on Saturday obtained judgment.

The defendant was Mr. W. Howard Smith, a director of the Camberwell Music Hall, who, she said, provided her with a furnished flat. He used to pay her visits. Eventually they decided to separate, and an agreement was entered into by which the stock was to be made over to her. As it was not transferred, Mrs. Bernard sought the declaration.

ACTRESS'S "UNDERSTUDY."

Spanish Chorus Girl Charged with Frauds on Landladies.

On the pretext that she was taking the place, at the County Theatre, Kingston, of the leading lady, who had been suddenly seized with illness, Salome Jago, a young Spanish chorus girl, is said to have victimised Mrs. Jardine, living in Thorpe-road, who provided her with lodgings.

Mrs. Jardine stated at the police court on Saturday that a week ago last Saturday the girl borrowed her fur boa, saying she would be back in time for dinner. She did not return, however, and Mrs. Jardine afterwards found that she had also taken a pair of boots with her.

When the girl was subsequently arrested she told the detective that a Mrs. Clayton, living at West Dulwich, was her step-mother. But the latter denied all knowledge of the girl.

There was another charge against the girl of obtaining food and lodging by false pretences from Mrs. Pettett, of East Molesey. The prosecutrix said that Salome Jago applied for board and lodging, saying that she was Miss Dorothy Sydney, a professional actress, playing in "Cousin Kate," which was being produced at the Kingston theatre the following week. The girl agreed to her terms, saying that £1 5s. the price named, was that which was allowed by Miss Emma Hutchison, to whose company she alleged she belonged.

When asked for a deposit, the girl wished to wait until Monday. When Monday came she said that she had been for her money, but the manager had been too busy to pay her. On Tuesday she left without telling Mrs. Pettett she was going.

The managing director of the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, stated that there was a Miss Dorothy Sydney playing in "Cousin Kate" at the theatre, but prisoner was quite unknown to her.

The Kingston magistrates, before whom the girl was charged on Saturday, ordered a remand.

FRIGHTENING A SWEETHEART.

Judge's Lenient View of a Jealous Lover's Act.

Matthias Leopold Bennisson, a young fish salesman, employed at St. Helena, who fell in love with his employer's niece, Catherine Grady, took such forcible steps to intimidate his sweetheart into marrying him that he was on Saturday charged at the Liverpool Assizes with attempted murder and suicide.

At the Judge's suggestion the first charge was altered to that of unlawfully wounding.

The young couple were constantly brought together in the shop and kept company for some time, but the prisoner's fits of jealousy led to the engagement being broken off.

"If I can't have you, nobody else shall," Bennisson declared in a passion, and immediately went out and bought a razor.

Returning to the shop he approached Miss Grady from behind and drew the razor across her throat, afterwards cutting his own throat. Both were found lying on the floor bleeding.

Mr. Justice Bucknill took the view that the prisoner only tried to frighten his sweetheart, and released him on his own recognisances.

MOTHER CUT IN PIECES.

A horrible crime is reported from Belgium. A young woman killed her mother and cut up the body into more than fifty pieces, which she threw into a well. She was arrested at Ostend as she was about to cross to England, and confessed that she had committed the crime on account of her mother's opposition to her proposed marriage.

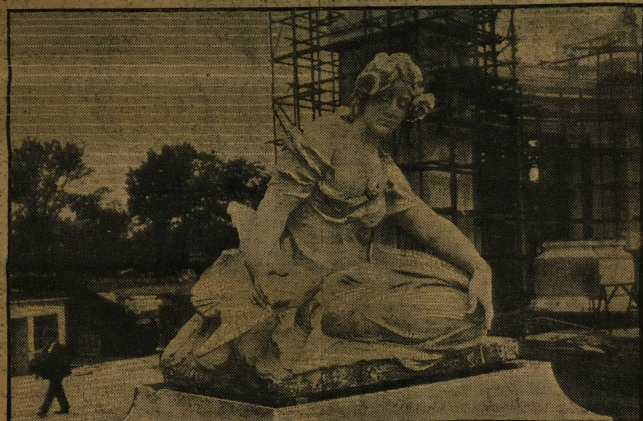
SATURDAY'S GOVERNMENT GOLF—JAPANESE OFF

THE NAMELESS PICTURE.



Show this picture to your friends and ask them who it is. Answers, which must be directed to the "Picture Puzzle Department," "Daily Mirror" office, will be opened at noon on Tuesday, and a guinea will be sent to the sender of the first correct answer opened.—See page 9.

AT "THE WORLD'S FAIR."



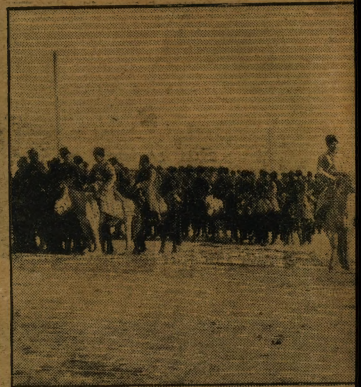
GIRL WITH SEA-GULL.—Statuary group, by Konti, erected at the great cascades, St. Louis World's Fair.—(Photograph by G. G. Bain, New York.)

M.P. AMATEUR ACTOR.



Mr. George Montague, M.P., playing in amateur theatricals. See page 9.—(Photograph by Stereoscopic Co.)

COSSACKS AR



Russian Cossack cavalry parading at Harbin on lines to Vladivostok and Port Arthur, and is

PORT ARTHUR—INVESTED

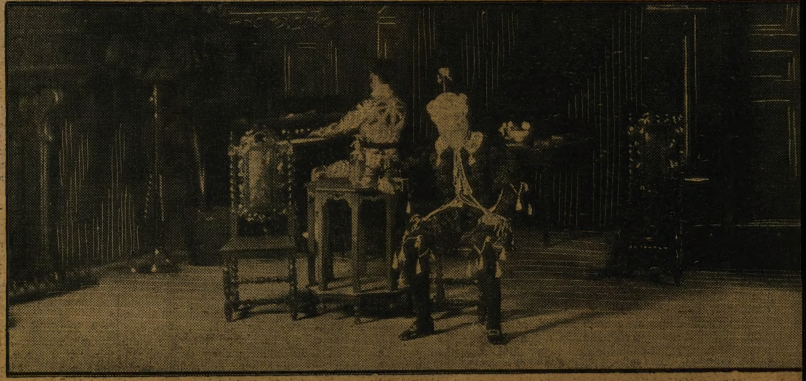


This photograph is one of a series, taken by the Japanese Government and issued to the public, showing the Hwangkin (Golden) Hill Forts, and looks across the strait to the Old Tiger's Tail Fort. The picture, by the flagstaff, are the Jorise earthworks, attached to which is another torpedo at once by referring to the

SCENES FROM MR. W. S. GILBERT'S NEW PLAY, "THE FAIRY'S DILEMMA"



Mr. Gilbert's new play bears more resemblance to his "Bab Ballads" than his old Savoy operas.



The characters of the play are suddenly transformed into the familiar figures of Harlequin; and Mr. Sydney Valentine, Pantaloon.—(Photographs by Ellis and

SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF PORT ARTHUR'S DEFENCES.

ON THE SCENE OF WAR.



Arrival at the theatre of war. Harbin is at the junction of the railway of Russian base of operations—(Photograph by the Charles Urban Trading Company.)

AND AND SEA.



These officers, showing the fortifications of Port Arthur. The view is from the left of which is a torpedo station. At the right-hand corner of the fort. The position of this portion of the Russian defences will be seen on page 2.

M.P.s AT GOLF ON SATURDAY—THE PREMIER WINS HIS MATCH.



MR. BALFOUR LEAVING THE GRÄNVILLE HOTEL, RAMEGATE, FOR SANDWICH.



MR. BALFOUR DRIVING FROM THE 17TH TEE.

On Saturday the first and second rounds of the 14th annual Parliamentary golf tournament were decided on the links of the Royal St. George's Club, at Sandwich. Three members of the Cabinet were playing—Mr. Balfour, the Prime Minister; Mr. Lyttelton, the Colonial Secretary; and Mr. Graham Murray, the Secretary for Scotland. Both Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lyttelton won their matches.

AT KEMPTON ON SATURDAY.



Lord Carnarvon (wearing a white hat), at Kempton Park on Saturday. His horse, Abelard, was second in the May Auction Plate, won by Lady Dainty.

A PRECOCIOUS AMERICAN.



This little boy, Willie Levesque, of Worcester, Massachusetts, though still only three years old, is a confirmed smoker. He prefers an old clay pipe to either cigar or cigarette.

AT THE GARRICK THEATRE.



The pantomime-harlequinade. Mr. Bourchier is the clown; Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Columbine; Mr. O. B. Clarence,

CAUGHT BY A TORNADO.



This house, at Indiana Harbour, near Chicago, is not suffering from intoxication, but has been struck by a tornado. Such things are not uncommon in the United States.

THE FUTURE READ IN SOAP BUBBLES.

PEEPS INTO FUTURITY.

THE DIVINATION OF THE SOAP BUBBLES AND THE TEA LEAVES.

After my experience with the Tarot cards, as narrated recently, a heavy presentiment as of some impending sorrow took possession of me, and I was haunted by the fear that surely the practise of clairvoyance must be of serious import, and that there were, without any doubt, people who possessed the gift of lifting the veil from the future.

My doubts were soon answered once and for all. One morning I took up the daily paper as usual, and began to idly scan its contents. But the first line I saw arrested my eye, and made by heart stand still for an instant with fear. "Motor-car Accident. Owner Killed and his Friend Severely Injured." And then, as I read the name of the friend, a mist blinded my eyes, and the whole world seemed to recede from me. The clairvoyantes had spoken the truth. The man I loved

so formed the picture of the invalid and the doctor? The sketch even portrayed the very lineaments of the man I loved, and I could see that his eyes were closed and his head was swathed in bandages. "But I want to know something more than this," I exclaimed agitatedly. "This sketch is quite true as far as it goes. But can you not show me something else? Can I not make some more soap bubbles, and you shall see another picture for me?"

What the Tea-leaves Told.

I looked eagerly at Miss Melville, but she shook her head. "You shall try the tea-leaves," she said, "and I will endeavour to see something else for you there."

She poured out a cup of tea from an earthenware teapot that stood on the table, and told me to drink it at my leisure. Chattering with me during this process of tea drinking, Miss Melville told me of the curious pictures she had always been able to see in the tea-leaves that are



The smart shoulder cape depicted here is made of white lawn, with pale green tawn leaves appliqued upon it, and an edging executed in green French knots.

left in the cup, and how she could often describe events pictured in this way. A series of sketches in her note-book showed me her "tea-leaves" definitions, all of which had come absolutely true.

One sketch represented a desolate-looking woman sitting by a stormy sea, and Miss Melville informed me that she had seen this in her teacup at breakfast one morning and recognised it for a friend who lived in the West Indies. The same day came the intelligence of an earthquake, and the news that that friend's house had been demolished and that she and others had almost been drowned by a great tidal wave. Other sketches depicted a happy pair taking hands, and this represented a betrothal, while another showed an accident to a hansom. All this had been seen by Miss Melville before the events had happened, and had been sketched straight off from the tea-leaves.

And now came my turn. After I had drunk the tea, Miss Melville simply strained off all the moisture, taking great care not to disturb the tea-leaves. "These must remain just as the person leaves them in the cup, or else they do not make a fair picture," she explained. Then she began to sketch rapidly, and after a few moments of breathless anxiety on my part, handed me the picture.

A Curious Picture.

Eagerly I took up the sketch and examined it closely. The picture showed a pretty garden with a trim velvet lawn sloping down to a stream. On a couch reclined a man whose features I recognised at once. A crutch had fallen to the ground. Evidently he was lame. Not far from him was the figure of a woman depicted with her back to him, as though in the attitude of walking away.

"I should say this scene meant that this girl was turning her back on the invalid, and walking away out of his life," said Miss Melville. "Perhaps she has been engaged to him, and now finds that her feelings are changed, because he will be lame for life. Do you see this figure in the background? It represents another girl who is holding out her arms entreatingly to him. It is rather like you in appearance, and it gives me the impression that you are anxious to do and nurse him. There is an expression of relief on the man's face as he looks after the departing figure. Perhaps he is glad the girl is going away from him for ever."

I took the sketch from Miss Melville's hand and hurried home with it. Could I believe in a divination by tea-leaves? It seemed such a hackneyed, vulgarised form of divination. Well, a week later came the news that the invalid's life was no longer in danger, but that the accident would make him lame for life. At least, that was a striking coincidence! Would the rest prove true?

There was still the colour card and the mirror framed in black velvet laid for me to consult, and was there not also the sibyl who could provide me with talismans to ensure success and happiness? The mysteries of clairvoyance were not yet all exhausted, and the divination by tea-leaves had made me even more anxious to seek a further oracle.

Former instalments of this remarkable series of real experiences appeared in the "Daily Mirror" of April 9, 15, 20, and 29.

Fels-Naptha

improves fast colours; and, generally, don't run what water alone don't run.

Shrinks woollens but little; leaves them soft.

Go by the book.

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DOES ROMANCE OUTLAST MARRIAGE?

FAREWELL TO THE SENTIMENT OF LOVE.

People talk as if the wedding ring put the death seal to romance—as if all the sentiment and beauty of life died out with the waning of the honeymoon, and nothing was left but the dull, dead level of commonplace, the cold mutton and the quarterly bills of matrimony.

Is this true? No doubt it is in many cases, but if so, it must be the married people who are to blame, and not the fact that they are married.

Of course, the novelty and the excitement of the courtship days cannot be kept up through the calm security of married life—perhaps it would not be an unmixt advantage if it could; but there seems something almost pathetic as well as dreadful in the way in which the average man or woman gives up, with a sigh, as soon as they leave the church door, all the beautiful sentiment which has surrounded their love. The reason why romance

so often dies is that people are not wise enough to try still to keep it alive and flourishing. They let their husbands and wives see too much of the uninteresting and commonplace about them, and they don't make an effort still to preserve the charm that was so potent in the days when they were only engaged.

It is difficult to keep up a tender romance over a wife one habitually sees in an untidy dress, with untidy hair; or a husband who is lax in his language, and given to wearisome nagging over an extra penny in the butcher's bill.

A NOTABLE SALE.

A GRAND OPPORTUNITY OF ACQUIRING BARGAINS.

The famous firm of Messrs. Debenham and Freebody has just bought the business and entire stock of that equally famous firm, the Maison Helbronner.



Two new collars will be observed above; one is a stock made of black satin overlaid with stripe of embroidery, and the other is a white linen collar.

ner, who for over half a century has carried on a celebrated business in Church and Art embroidery, needlework, fabrics, and furniture, first in Oxford-street, then in New Bond-street.

No one needs to be told that the wares of the Maison Helbronner are the best of their kind, so the news that Messrs. Debenham and Freebody begin to-day to sell more than £200,000 worth of them, at enormous reductions in price, will be excellent hearing. At the same time, it is gratifying to learn that Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, having transferred the business of the Maison Helbronner to Wigmore-street, will carry it on under the same conditions as formerly, and have indeed secured the services of Miss Barclay and other members of the Helbronner staff to the end that the excellence of the undertaking may be maintained, but with a much larger and more comprehensive stock than formerly.

The sale includes bargains in curtains, tablecloths, embroideries, wools, silks, and ecclesiastical pieces, tapestries, velvets, and damasks too numerous to mention. But a special word of comment is deserved by the cushions, which are remarkably valuable, and are priced on excessively advantageous terms to the customer.

OUR SERIAL.

Stage-Struck.

By SIDNEY WARWICK.

CHAPTER XXVII.—Continued.

"You are mad to utter such a threat!" cried Janet, in a low, intense voice. "You take my child—your?"

"By law the child is mine," Herbert Daventry answered, "and I have the right to its custody. Where is Joe, Elsie goes!"

She cried desperately: "But the law would not allow you to come between the child and its mother!" There was a note of terrible fear in her voice.

"Under ordinary circumstances perhaps not—but these are not ordinary circumstances. Consider, it is not I who am deserting you, but you who are deserting him. That's what it amounts to. You refuse to live with your husband, though he has always been kind to you; that means you are deserting him. And a deserting wife has no legal right to take a child from its father's custody. So you see, my dear Janet, if you persist in leaving me, you go alone."

He lay back in the chair smiling. It pleased him to see that he had frightened her. And his threat sounded plausible enough, though he had his doubts whether he could legally have enforced it. It was melodramatic law—whether it was actually English law was a different matter, of course. But as a piece of bluff, it was plausible enough; it had frightened her, had humbled her pride.

Janet stood with her eyes riveted on him, as he sat smoking. The little room was filled with the smoke of vile tobacco that tainted the air; it was like an outward visible expression of the taint this man carried with him. One hand was pressed on her panting bosom. This man take little Elsie—oh, that would be too horrible! She would rather the child were dead than that she grow up to be her father's daughter.

"I can't believe it—I won't believe it!" she cried passionately. "A woman could rob her husband of his child, I suppose? A pretty state of things that would be!" he said, with much virtuous indignation.

"But such a father!" she said, with an emphasis of bitter scorn—"a convicted swindler and thief!"

His lips tightened.

"Just so, my dear Janet. The law has no sentiment, and I have purged my offence. I still retain my common sense as a citizen. You have your remedy. Stay with little Elsie and me. We should make a happy family party."

Live with him? Janet shuddered at the thought. To have this man's presence always in her home, influencing her child through the most impressionable years, poisoning their lives. She could not endure that.

She saw the man suddenly rise and stoop to pick up something on the floor. It was a little white sock that Elsie had worn. She sprang forward with passion blazing in her eyes, and before he could touch it, snatched it away. She could not bear that he should touch anything of Elsie's. Daventry shrugged his shoulders. Her anger amused him. He was pleased to see his power to wound her.

"I shall make an actress of Elsie," he went on, watching her. He wondered what thoughts were in her mind; her silence disconcerted him a little. "I shall begin to train her for the stage systematically. The daughter of two such talented people ought to do well, eh?" he laughed.

He saw her make a sudden gesture as if he could touch it, snatched it away. She could not bear that he should touch anything of Elsie's. Daventry shrugged his shoulders. Her anger amused him. He was pleased to see his power to wound her.

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He stood silent for a moment, taint aback. Then a thought came to him, and he answered wildly: "Perhaps the magistrate would not be assured of your clean record as you seem to suppose—when I told him that you were accessory after the fact to my crime."

She stared at him. For a moment she could not realise what he threatened. Even in this man it seemed too mean, too monstrous a thing to believe. "You would say that?" she cried in low, indignant tones.

Continued on page 9.



Sketches on this page specially drawn for the "Daily Mirror" by Miss Brooke-Alder.

Hand embroidery is the newest feature of linen dresses, and above is shown a champagne-coloured frock decorated with white stitchery.

had been thrown out of the car, and so severely injured that the doctors despaired of his life!

So the prophecies had been verified! Each sibyl had spoken of a severe accident, and one had mentioned death. But the death was that of my sweetheart's cousin, the owner of the motor-car, and I remembered with intense comfort that both Madame Vera and Miss Ita had said that the injuries to the man I cared for would not prove fatal. For the first time in my life I felt truly grateful to the clairvoyantes, and I resolved to hasten to another sibyl as early as possible to see if she could further uplift the veil from the future.

That same afternoon chance took me to a fashionable bazaar, and it was there that I came across a form of divination that I had not yet tried.

"Do go and have your fortune told by pictures in the soap bubbles," urged one of my friends who came up to me. "There is a sibyl in the tent there who is telling everyone marvellous things that she sees for them after they have blown soap bubbles. She sketches the pictures for them—Look, here is mine," and my friend showed me a sketch of a splendid carriage, with the coachman and footman decorated with wedding favours.

"I didn't tell her that I was to be married this week, but I thought it was a strange coincidence that she should see a wedding carriage in the soap bubbles," added my friend. "You positively must take this opportunity of seeing her while the crowd has thinned a little. I assure you she has been most popular this afternoon."

Blowing the Bubbles of Fate.

Obedying my friend's orders I entered the tent and rather listlessly surveyed the sibyl who was seated at a table. She was a fair girl with blue eyes and golden hair, and there was something very pleasant and winning about her expression. A glass bowl containing water and soap-suds stood on the table, and she held a sketch book and pencil in her hand. "Do you want to see your fortune?" she said, with a smile, pushing the glass bowl towards me. "Well, blow some bubbles in this bowl, and I will look what the future holds for you."

It was easy work to blow bubbles, and presently an indifferent collection had formed on the side of the bowl. Miss Melville, for that was the sibyl's name, gazed at the bubbles for a moment, and then, with quick, deft fingers, hastily drew a picture on her sketching block. "One of your friends must be ill," she said, handing me the picture, "for in the soap bubble I distinctly saw a doctor leaning over the bed of a patient." And, handing me the sketch, she showed me the picture she had just described!

The coincidence was almost superfluous. Had my thoughts materialised on the soap bubbles, and

VERY DESIRABLE ALIENS.

Train Load of American Beauties for the "Prince of Pilsen."

London was invaded on Saturday night by the largest theatrical company that has ever crossed the Atlantic. Next Saturday evening active operations will be opened at the Shaftesbury Theatre to capture London and reduce the entire theatrical public prisoners.

Mr. Canby, who has been over here some little time making arrangements for Mr. Henry W. Savage, gave away some of the enemy's plans to a *Mirror* representative.

"Like the Japanese," he said, "we have left nothing undone that could be thought of to make 'The Prince of Pilsen' a success in London. Our heavy artillery companies, amongst others, Misses Tricix Fraganza, Lilly Collins, Isobel Hall, and Messrs. Arthur Donaldson, Victor Morris, Sherman Wade, and John W. Ransome, whilst one of the most beautiful girls in America will keep up a quick fire from eyes of every hue.

Seven Typical Beauties.

"Truthfully I may say the States have been ransacked for beauty. There are seven young ladies who represent the principal cities of the Union, and each has been selected as the winner of a beauty show. The characteristic of each city is caricatured by Miss Fraganza in a scene, whilst the peculiarities are portrayed by the seven beauties.

"For instance, New York burlesques the Kangaroo walk; Philadelphia, the sleepy, drowsy city, goes in for lullabies; New Orleans is the 'Dixie Girl'; and St. Louis has the celebrated 'Possuville' dance as its specialty.

Three of the ladies of the company—Misses Kent, Spencer and Patterson—who were introduced to the *Mirror* representative as "Shrimp," "Crab," and "Lobster," were full of the trip on the Eturia, and looking forward to having a great time in London, although the tiny Shrimp lady's blue eyes got rather misty as she spoke of the thousands of miles from home. "Crab" and "Lobster" were made of sterner stuff, and only spoke of the triumphs to come. Asked if they thought it would be a success, "Lobster" replied, "Wal, I guess so; the piece has run two years straight in the States, and you are going to have the same show, nothing altered, just a pure American musical comedy. Good-bye, glad to have met you."

SOLDIER DON JUAN.

Well-deserved Punishment for a Man of Many Marriages.

"During the whole time I have been one of his Majesty's Judges," said Mr. Justice Bucknill at the Liverpool Assize Court on Saturday, "I have never had to deal with such a bad case of bigamy as this."

The prisoner, James King, aged thirty-eight, a sergeant in the Royal Engineers, was a perfect soldier Don Juan. He deserted his first wife, Alice Nash, in 1897, and formed an acquaintance with a widow at Pembroke Dock, with whom his projected marriage was arranged. In 1899 he married Clara Ellen Court at Old Brompton Barracks, but after living with her for a brief period he volunteered for service in South Africa.

On the return journey he persuaded the stewardess, Anne Jane Legge, to marry him, and led her to the altar on arrival in Liverpool.

He was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

NAMELESS PICTURE PUZZLE.

Readers Should Be Easily Able to Identify the Lady.

To-day's nameless picture will be found on page 6. It represents a well-known lady whom readers should find no difficulty in identifying.

Letters, or postcards, stating who this lady is, should be addressed to the Picture Puzzle Department, 2, Carnarville-street, E.C., and must reach the office by noon to-morrow. An award of one guinea will be forwarded to the writer of the first correct reply opened.

Very few mistakes were made as to the identity of the lady whose photograph was the nameless picture in Friday's issue. The picture represented Madame Melba, the famous diva. The winner of the guinea prize is Mr. J. S. Wallis, 136, Fordwych-road, Cricklewood, N.W.

The award for the correct answer to Saturday's "Who is it?" picture will be announced to-morrow.

WANTED—A DINNER HOUR.

Late Diners Lose the First Act at the Opera.

To-night the special performance of "Lohengrin"—without "cuts"—will take place at 7 p.m. It should have been performed on Saturday, but was postponed until to-night.

Mr. Destinn's "Elsa" ought to prove interesting, and the cast also includes Madame Kirkby Lunn, and M. M. Herold and Van Rooy.

Madame Melba makes her rentrée on Tuesday night, and an interesting debut on Friday will be that of Miss Parkins, who has made such a phenomenal success in the concert room this season.

The hour of the special performances—7 p.m.—is causing difficulty to opera folk, for there is no dinner interval, as there was last year, for the King. The consequence is that the first act of each of the special performances last week was played to a very empty house. The second act, however, saw the boxes tolerably well filled.

We learn on good authority that there is some possibility, after all, of hearing Saint-Saëns' new opera, "Hélène," at Covent Garden this season. Madame Melba, who created the title-role when it was produced at Nice some months ago, has been enthusiastic ever since over the work, and if it is produced it will be in some measure owing to her influence.

M.P. ON THE STAGE.

Mr. George Montagu, Conservative member for South Huntingdonshire, appeared on the first four days of the week at the Court Theatre in "The Importance of Being Earnest."

The performances are given by the Grey Friars Amateur Dramatic Society, on behalf of the Children's League of Kindness in South London, and the Evelina Hospital for Children, Southwark. A portrait of Mr. Montagu appears on page 6.

CENTENARIAN CROSSES THE ATLANTIC.

John O'Reilly, the first centenarian the Atlantic liners have ever carried, sailed on Saturday on the Cunarder *Lucania* to visit the scenes of his youth in County Queen's County, Ireland.

O'Reilly, who is still able to walk erect without the assistance of a stick, has ninety grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mr. James J. Hill, the president of the Great Northern Railroad of America, is to give £200,000 (towards the £600,000 required for building a cathedral in New York. The remainder of the money is already assured.

TRILBY IN LONDON.

Plays Unknown Music in a Hypnotic Trance.

Mr. H. E. Moss has decided to include Nydia, the hypnotic singer, in this week's programme at the London Hippodrome. A *Mirror* representative saw a private performance by this real-life Trilby, who is twenty-four, and comes from Basle, Switzerland.

The gentleman who performs the part of Svengali is Mr. Peter Sampson, the strong man who achieved fame by breaking chains at the old Royal Aquarium many years ago. The wonderful young lady was brought over to London by Mr. Ben Nathan.

At the séance Mr. Sampson made several passes with a small, circular, hand-mirror over Trilby. Mlle. Nydia was then put in a hypnotic trance, and two medical men, who felt her pulse, said that it was scarcely beating at all. Mlle. Nydia was then blindfolded by the doctors with first a white and then a black velvet bandage.

When it was completed the modern Svengali waved the magic glass and said, "Will you kindly step to the piano, please?"

The hypnotised lady, without a sound, rose up from her chair unaided, walked over to the piano, and seated herself ready to play. In turn, an original New Zealand song, a piece of music composed by M. M. Edward German and a minuet by Paderewski were successfully played by Mlle. Nydia.

The name of another song was written on a piece of paper, sealed up in an envelope, and placed upon her head, and again the glass was waved, and without hesitation the lady from Basle guessed its name and played it correctly. It was a song called "The Loreley."

LONDON'S LITTLE ITALY.

Interesting Facts About This Year's Exhibition at Earl's Court.

Some idea of the magnitude of "Italy in London," which opens at Earl's Court on Wednesday, will be found in the fact that to produce the wonderful garden effects there have been used 20,000 square yards of sky, the canvas scenery is spread over 1,500 square feet, piazzas, buildings and canals cover a superficial area of 56,340 square feet; the canals if placed end to end would reach a length of three-quarters of a mile.

The outdoor attractions include the water chute, the great wheel, and Sir Hiram Maxim's airship. The Italian Ambassador and Madame Pansa will accompany the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs to the opening ceremony.

MUSICAL CHILD PRODIGES.

On Saturday at St. James's Hall two pretty little sisters, Paula and Flora Hegner, aged twelve and fourteen respectively—one a pianist, the other a soprano—carried out a programme of music which might have been prepared for two of the greatest artists of the day.

Paula gave a really superb rendering of Chopin's E minor concerto with the orchestra, her accuracy being marvellous. Flora, the little singer gave a beautifully finished rendering, with orchestral accompaniment, of Mozart's "Il Re Pastore."

Flora also sang lieder by Grieg, Schubert, and Umlauf, accompanied to perfection by her sister, and no praise is too high for the dramatic rendering of "Soloi's Lied" and "Haidenrostein," which the little soprano gave.

A BETTER RIVIERA.

Mr. Stead on the Beauties of the South African Climate.

Mr. W. T. Stead arrived back in London on Saturday morning in excellent health and looking exceedingly well after his three months' stay in South Africa. Speaking of South Africa to a representative of the *Daily Mirror* Mr. Stead said: "I had no idea it was so beautiful. The people have never boomed it as they ought to have done. It is the Riviera, with a better climate."

"I have come back very hopeful about South Africa."

With regard to the education scheme, Mr. Stead said that the general opinion amongst the people of Transvaal and Orange River Colony was that the English teachers who were sent out there were absolutely incompetent to teach the Dutch language, and that the people of the two colonies say that the schools are being used not only for the teaching of the English language but for the promoting of Anglicanism. As a proof of the dissatisfaction in that matter the leaders were endeavouring to raise funds to establish Dutch schools in the two States.

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Continued] STAGE-STRUCK. [From Page 8.

tense tones. "You are shameless enough to tell me you would say that?"

"If you force me to it?" Prison life had brutalised him utterly. He was beginning to see that his bluff about taking the child was a failure, but perhaps this threat might serve.

"And you think you would be believed?" she cried with scorn.

"I should tell them that immediately upon my arrest you hurried to my old rooms to destroy incriminating letters. The fact that you knew of these would prove my words! It would make nice reading in the papers, eh? It would be a pleasant send-off for your professional career," he added, viciously.

She looked at him with horror in her eyes. This was the man she had married: a man whom such a threat put utterly outside the pale.

"I see, you are trying to frighten me, but I am not the inexperienced girl you married. No magistrate would give a child to the care of such a man as you—"

"That has yet to be proved," he cried viciously. "In any case I have rights as a father—I have the right to see the child when I like, to have a voice in the shaping of its future." He knew that that threat was powerful enough.

"What is your price?" she demanded swiftly. "That is what you mean, of course. You think you can wring from me more than two pounds ten shillings a week, which you were to receive on the condition you never intruded on me. I'll make a further bargain with you. What is your price?"

His eyes glistened. He was in luck's way. She realised she was in his power. Yes, he would make a bargain. A bargain could always be repudiated. In this child he would always have a hold over her that she could not shake off.

"Well, a man expects to be paid pretty handsomely if he is to be deprived of both his wife and child. I don't want to be hard on you, but it's only fair you should pay me—I'm so fond of children, too!"

"My salary is seven guineas a week. You shall have half that each week so long as you keep away from my child and me," she said coldly.

"Seven guineas a week for playing in the country!" he cried.

"I am playing in town," she answered icily.

"Answer me, yes or no: half of my salary—"

for my child and me to be spared the taint of your presence."

"Your candour is charming. Yes, I agree—for the present."

"You must agree finally. You will sign a paper stating the conditions and the money will be only paid to you on these conditions."

Half her salary. But it was worth it to be free of this man.

He said, "When he had such a hold over her, he was not going to be bound, not he! He had the whip-hand, and she should know it!"

"I have a rooted objection to signing documents. The word of a gentleman should be sufficient. For the present I accept. But you forget! My salary will rise—my terms also are on a sliding scale. If you don't care for this arrangement—well, I stand on my rights as a father!"

CHAPTER XXVIII. A Stern Resolve.

She had married him. She had fastened a millstone round her neck for as long as she lived. He would play on her, a parasite she could not shake off. As she made her way, became more successful, his demands would increase. And she would be powerless. He would always have that weapon in his hands: that he had the right to see Elsie as often as he chose; that was his weapon—her love for her child, her desperate anxiety to shield Elsie from the taint of his influence—and he was sunk low enough to take that weapon. She realised that as she sat up thinking late that night, long after she had put Elsie to bed.

Janet looked at the little sleeping face on the pillow. How could she guard her child against the corrupting influence of his father?

She had embraced the theatrical life, and for her there was no turning back now, even had she wished it; but though her work had a fascination for her, she shuddered at the thought of little Elsie ever being led into the unwholesome life. She had lost her last illusion about the stage. The child must be guarded from following its mother's example.

That was the thought that dominated her that night, as she looked down at the flushed baby face; it was the thought that haunted her, as on the Sunday before the production of the new play, she and Elsie were carried by the morning train from King's Cross to Huntingdon. She was going to Overton, to Mrs. Benjafield's. It was impossible

to go on a week day; rehearsals occupied the whole day.

Mrs. Benjafield had sent the trap to meet them. Janet drove through the familiar lanes that brought her a host of old associations. How heavy her heart was.

She remembered those weeks she had spent down there in Huntingdonshire; the wonderful change from her cheerless room in Kilburn to the fresh greenness of the country, the delightful feeling of rest after the weeks of hopeless endeavour. All the old pleasant memories that clustered in her mind round this country place—but how heavy her heart was as she visited it again to-day!

John Gray had come down during her former visit; the week he had been there stood out red-lettered in her mind among all those pleasant weeks. She remembered how close their intimacy had grown. If she had been free their comradeship might perhaps have ripened into a love story; for had not those weeks taught her what her heart had not known when first he offered her his love, asked her to be his wife? Ah! if she had but known then what she had come to know later! How different everything—her whole life—would have been to-day!

The five mile drive came to an end; the fresh country air had sent Elsie to sleep, as she lay in her mother's arms, long before the long, low, gabled barn appeared in sight. Mrs. Benjafield came bustling out to meet them.

"How are you, my dear? And this is little Elsie—why, bless its dear little heart, how like you it is. The living image of you, Miss Janet!" as she bent over and kissed the awakening child.

She looked into Elsie's pale weary face sympathetically.

"You must be tired, my dear; come inside, and you shall have a cup of tea at once. That will buck you up!"

But she knew that it was more than physical tiredness that accounted for Janet's sad heavy eyes, her listless step.

"You have quite made up your mind, my dear, I suppose?" said Mrs. Benjafield, earnestly, when Elsie had been laid comfortably on the couch, to go to sleep on a pile of cushions. "Of course, if you leave her with me, I shall take as much care of the little darling as though she were my own—I should love to see her, and that's a fact—it is good for the child to be parted from her mother; and it is good for you, Miss Janet? why should you part from her—you've given up travelling now?"

"I must," Janet said. It was only with an effort she could maintain her composure. "I have

quite made up my mind. It is best I should leave Elsie with you. I did not make up my mind in a moment."

Yes, it was best for the child—but her own heart was like lead.

She had dreamed of a life of quiet happiness with her child—but she had forgotten to reckon with one father, Elsie's father. His shadow had come between her and her dreams. As long as Elsie was with her she would always live in dread: this man might force himself on them to influence the child—and early impressions are so strong. He might, out of sheer vindictive desire to wound her, fill the child's mind with thoughts of the stage. And the child must grow up to hate the stage. More, it must never know its father, must be shielded from ever learning the disgrace that rested on her father's name. Elsie must go away, go somewhere her father could not follow her—Janet's interview with Daventry had forced that fact upon her. If the child was to be guarded, this was the only way.

But the agony of the wrench was torture unbearable. In parting from Elsie she felt she was losing the child, losing the one interest left in life for her except the stage. When she had torn herself from Elsie she would be alone, quite alone. The look of tearless agony in her face almost frightened the older woman.

"But you'll come down often and see her, Miss Janet," cried Mrs. Benjafield. "You could run down often of a Sunday."

"No, I shall not come often," Janet said slowly. "Won't come often? But won't Elsie grow up not to care for her mother—"

"Oh, don't you understand?" cried Janet fiercely. "I've got to sacrifice myself. She must grow up not to think of me as her mother. Not to know me as her mother. I am an actress, and my husband was a convict—her father! She must be spared that knowledge. For these two reasons I am leaving her in your care—and I realise that in leaving her, I am losing her."

The tears were in Mrs. Benjafield's own eyes as she heard the note of poignant anguish in the other's words. She realised that she was witnessing the silent tragedy of a woman's life.

"Oh, my poor dear! my poor dear!" she cried in plying sympathy. "But are you sure you are right? Why should your profession estrange you from your child?"

"She must never be an actress—never!" she cried passionately. "I want her to grow up a happier woman than her mother. Oh, it's a bad, hateful life for a woman—I'm an actress, and I know! My child must grow up to hate the stage!"

To be continued to-morrow.

Wild's Performance.

which included a rod-tax for coarse fishermen, were defeated by 41,500 votes to 2,000, and it was decided that the Federation should draft a Bill of their own.

The next meeting will be held in London in May, 1905. All last year's officers were re-elected.

